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September 9, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

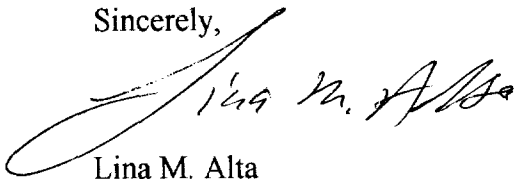
Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing as a concerned citizen and (reluctant) egg consumer, in response to your request for public comments on reducing egg borne diseases, such as salmonella. I have long been concerned about the practice of forced molting (starvation and water deprivation) of hens. I believe that the FDA should do more than just put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

I understand that the FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health, and that the FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. Even laying aside the important issue of cruelty to animals, I believe the FDA must prohibit the practice of forced molting, because it has been scientifically shown to promote diseased hens and eggs by destroying the starving hens' immune systems: these diseases get passed on to egg consumers.

Because of the real and proven danger to human health, I ask that the petition to ban forced molting be granted without further delay. Thank you for your consideration of my commentary and request.

Sincerely,



Lina M. Alta

98N 1230

25-81

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C581

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C582
96P-0418/C581

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